



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Sheets

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Cookie Kolnaski Leivers.

Mayor Streeter called for a moment of silence for the passing of City Police Lieutenant Thomas Forbes.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2011-0130 Proclamation Recognizing Emery W. Young III

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Monteiro.

Councilor Catherine Kolnaski Celebrates her 90th Birthday

Mayor Streeter announced that Councilor Kolnaski celebrated her 90th birthday on May 30, 2011. He noted that she is a World War II veteran, a former Mayor of the City of Groton, and has served as a Town Councilor continuously since 1995. Councilor Kolnaski was instrumental in keeping the National Submarine Memorial in Groton, having lights installed at Washington Park, and getting the name of Trumbull Airport changed to Groton-New London Airport. Councilor Watson added that Councilor Kolnaski is his mentor and the reason he is in politics today.

Councilor Kolnaski thanked all who have encouraged and supported her through the years. She feels that Groton is a very special and wonderful place.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2011-0127 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 17, 2011 are hereby accepted

and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2011-0117 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Susan DeCorte McMillin - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Various Donations - \$8.01 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Groton Utilities Matching Funds - \$11.50 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Mystic Garden Club - \$500.00 - Jabez Smith House

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2006-0100 Thames Street Rehabilitation Study

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2006-0282 School Improvement Project - Phase II

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0172 FYE 2012 Budget

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0249 FYE 2012 Groton Long Point Highway Budget

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0250 FYE 2012 City of Groton Highway Budget

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0054 Reappointment of Stephen Hudecek to Zoning Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0055 Reappointment of Richard Haviland to Zoning Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0081 FYE 2012 Proposed Budget Deliberations

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0116 National Liberty Memorial to African Americans of the Revolutionary War

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0121 Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 12)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0122 Establishment of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove District Fund (FYE 12)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0123 Establishment of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District Fund (FYE 12)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0124 FYE 2011 Suspense List

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0125 Appointment of Fran Davis to Housing Authority

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0126 Appointment of James Kamercia to Parks and Recreation Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0128 Reappointment of Hal Zod to Planning Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Johnson attended a Sister Cities International meeting. He noted that "Sister Cities International" is a copyrighted name and there will be a fee to continue its use. The committee plans to continue its work, but adopt a new name to avoid this fee.

Councilor Peruzzotti attended an Economic Development Committee meeting.

Councilor Watson forwarded a pedestrian safety concern regarding Thomas Road to the Town Manager.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a mentor recognition ceremony and the retirement reception for staff of Groton Public Schools.

Councilor Flax attended band concerts at S.B. Butler and Cutler Middle Schools. He received an email regarding reappointments.

Mayor Streeter attended a special flag ceremony in Mystic which honored members of the Legion of Valor, whose membership is comprised of those who have received either the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross. He, along with the Town Manager, attended a Council of Governments meeting. The Mayor also attended a Chamber of Commerce breakfast, an Eagle Scout Ceremony, and a special presentation regarding space shuttle missions.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk stated that the next RTM meeting will be on June 8, 2011, at the Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk encouraged Councilors to participate in the upcoming 4th of July parade.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that Town Assessor John Philip is leaving to become the Assessor in Hartford and that Assistant Assessor Mary Gardner will be promoted to the position of Town Assessor. He noted that a retirement celebration for Parks & Recreation Director John Silsby will be held at the Senior Center on June 22, 2011. Mr. Oefinger stated that a warn letter was received from Electric Boat to give notice of a potential layoff of 59 individuals in August. The Town Manager requested that those Councilors interested in participating in the 4th of July parade let him know for scheduling purposes.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Watson read the minutes of May 24, 2011, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

Councilor Watson read the minutes of May 24, 2011, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last Committee of the Whole meeting and a special meeting held tonight.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2011-0054 Reappointment of Stephen Hudecek to Zoning Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING STEPHEN HUDECEK TO THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Stephen Hudecek, 33 Leeward Lane, Noank, is reappointed to the Zoning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/15.

This matter was Re-referred to the Town Council Personnel/Appointments/Rules/Legislation Committee.

Councilor Watson is concerned by Mr. Hudecek's limited knowledge of Roberts Rules.

Councilor Flax suggested re-referring this item to the Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee to conduct an additional interview.

By consensus this item was re-referred.

2011-0055 Reappointment of Richard Haviland to Zoning Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RICHARD HAVILAND TO THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Richard Haviland, 143 Allen Street, is reappointed to the Zoning Commission for a term ending 12/31/15.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor O'Beirne is opposed to this reappointment due to past performance.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.
Abstain: 1 - Councilor Monteiro

2011-0116 National Liberty Memorial to African Americans of the Revolutionary War**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AFRICAN AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS OF GROTON, CONNECTICUT AND THE PROPOSED NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL**

WHEREAS, Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa will introduce legislation in the U.S. Senate in May 2011 to complete the unfinished business of two decades: the construction of an entirely citizen-funded National Liberty Memorial to African Americans of the Revolutionary War at a location in the monumental core of Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, from 1775 to 1783, an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 slaves and free persons served as soldiers, sailors and patriots in the Revolutionary War, including Cato Mead of Norwich, Connecticut, and later of Montrose, Iowa, while tens of thousands of men, women and children provided civilian assistance, ran away from slavery and petitioned courts and the General Assembly for freedom; and

WHEREAS, more than 800 African Americans who resided in over 80 towns and cities, and all eight counties, in Connecticut served in the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, 24 African American soldiers and patriots from Groton by the names of Caesar, Cato, Cuff (2), James Freeman, Jordan Freeman, Micael Freeman, Joseph Hanibal, Cuff Hurlbut, Jack, Lambert Latham, Jonathan Mongo, Jacob Pomp, John Pomp, David Pomp, Lemuel Pompey, Samuel Pompey, Cato Roberson, Shoram, Amos Solomon, Edward Freeman, Jack Freeman, Prince Freeman, and John Pompey participated in the struggle for independence; and

WHEREAS, although the original memorial was not constructed, and the authority to do so has lapsed, genealogical research and the publication of hundreds of books over more than two decades reaffirm the significant contributions made by African Americans of the post-colonial period and validates their influence on the patriotism of future generations and the movement for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, the momentum to construct a national memorial, and to finally compile a comprehensive list of African American patriots, arose in 1984 out of the quest of Lena Santos Ferguson, deceased, of our sister town of Plainville, Connecticut to honor her heritage and expand the nation's understanding of the role of African Americans in the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1984, Rep. Nancy Johnson, Senator Lowell Weicker, and Senator Chris Dodd were leaders in the enactment and advocacy of landmark legislation, including Public Law 98-245 commemorating African American patriotism and Public Laws 99-558 and 100-265 that authorize a national memorial and declare the history of "preeminent historical and lasting significance to the nation."

WHEREAS, these combined efforts, reported by the Hartford Courant over 24 years, brought about the publication in 2008 of *Forgotten Patriots, African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War*, which contains the longest list so far of African Americans in the Revolutionary War, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of Groton, Connecticut joins the National Mall Liberty Fund, D.C. (www.libertyfunddc.org <<http://www.libertyfunddc.org>>), the congressional sponsors and original cosponsors of the National Liberty Memorial Act, including Rep. Donald Payne of New Jersey and Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia, and those who applaud the decision of Congress and President Reagan in 1988 to authorize the predecessor memorial at a site between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Council encourages volunteers to discover the names of still-unknown African American Revolutionary War soldiers, sailors and patriots, enlarge the body of knowledge about their lives and forward the information to National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. for inclusion in a database that will celebrate the trail blazers of Groton together with those of hundreds of proud American communities, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Council urges the Connecticut Delegation to the United States Congress to work for the enactment of the National Liberty Memorial Act and to spread knowledge of the history to institutions in southeastern Connecticut while promoting its potential for understanding and unity throughout the nation, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk of Groton forward certified copies of this Resolution to the entire Connecticut Delegation to the United States Congress, the Governor of the State of Connecticut, the Speaker and President Pro Tem of the General Assembly and the local superintendent of schools, librarian and historical societies.

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0121 Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 12)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR GENERAL FUND TAXES DUE ON JULY 1, 2011

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a General Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$118,485,063, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimates cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2012 property taxes will total \$42,166,572, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$866,130 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2011 to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2012 General Fund budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$75,452,361 is the amount that needs to be raised from property taxes, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the tax rate for taxes due July 1, 2011 is hereby established at 18.89 mills per thousand dollar of assessed valuation to raise \$75,452,361 ($\$75,452,361 \div \$4,096,300,162 \div 97.5\% \times 1,000 = 18.89$ mills).

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0122 Establishment of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove District Fund (FYE 12)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR MUMFORD COVE DISTRICT FUND DUE JULY 1, 2011

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a Mumford Cove District Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$21,027, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2012 property taxes will total \$350, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$100 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2011, to

partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2012 Mumford Cove District Fund budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the tax rate for taxes due for the Mumford Cove District Fund on July 1, 2011 is hereby established at 0.279 mills per thousand dollar of assessed valuation to raise \$20,877 ($\$20,877 \div \$74,946,084 \div 99.7\% \times 1,000 = 0.279$ mills).

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0123 Establishment of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District Fund (FYE 12)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR GROTON SEWER DISTRICT FUND DUE JULY 1, 2011

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a Groton Sewer District Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$1,168,570 and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2012 property taxes will total \$21,215, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$500,000 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2011, to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2012 Sewer District Fund budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the tax rate for taxes due for the Groton Sewer District Fund on July 1, 2011 is hereby established at 0.25 mills per thousand dollar of assessed valuation to raise \$647,355 ($\$647,355 \div \$2,646,812,968$ (excluding motor vehicles) $\div 98.5\% \times 1,000 = 0.25$ mills).

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0124 FYE 2011 Suspense List

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 SUSPENSE LIST

WHEREAS, State law requires that once a year a list shall be compiled of taxes that should be suspended, and

WHEREAS, the accounts which have been determined as uncollectible have been contacted at least nine times with no response, and

WHEREAS, placing uncollected items on the Suspense List helps avoid waste of money and staff time, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers remain liable for all amounts that are placed on the Suspense List, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amounts be added to the Suspense List as reported to the Town Council:

Town: \$504,481.80
Sewer District: \$3,683.92
Mumford Cove: \$4.32
Total: \$508,170.04

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be

Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

A motion to approve Resolutions 2011-0125 Appointment of Fran Davis to Housing Authority, 2011-0126 Appointment of James Kamercia to Parks and Recreation Commission, and 2011-0128 Reappointment of Hal Zod to Planning Commission was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

2011-0125 Appointment of Fran Davis to Housing Authority

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FRAN DAVIS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Fran Davis, 70 Village Lane #4, is appointed as a tenant member of the Housing Authority for a term ending 7/31/14

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0126 Appointment of James Kamercia to Parks and Recreation Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING JAMES KAMERCIA TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that James Kamercia, 41 Meech Avenue, is hereby appointed as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term ending 12/31/15.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0128 Reappointment of Hal Zod to Planning Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING HAL ZOD AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Hal Zod, 140 High Meadow Lane, Mystic, is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/15.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant